THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) The Literacy campaigns which were started shortly after establishment of National Literacy Mission in 1988 have laid special emphasis on women's participation.

(b) 61 percent of all learners under the literacy campaigns are women. Special emphasis is laid on women's issues to make them aware of their rights and secure their participation in the development process. Out of the approximately 63.64 million persons made literate so far, approximately 38.82 million are women.

Pensionary Benefits to Soldiers of Second World War

273. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the soldiers who participated in the Second World War are entitled to pensionary benefits;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any study about the number of soldiers who participated in the Second World War and are still alive;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) whether the ex-servicemen's Associations have represented the problems of the Second World War soldiers to the Union Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (e) During the Second World War, a large number of persons were recruited to the British Indian Army for the duration of war for short periods ranging from 2-6 years. They were retrenched after the termination of War. They were paid admissible war/service gratuity as full compensation for the service rendered by them. Since they had not put in the requisite minimum qualifying service for pension, they were not eligible for service pension. It is estimated that the number of such Second World War veterans (non-pensioners) still alive is 1,40,000.

The various ex-Servicemen Associations have been representing that the above mentioned Second World War veterans may be granted pension or financial assistance. This demand has been considered by the Government and it has not been found feasible to accept the same.

Crude Oil and Natural Gas Deposits

274. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether crude oil and natural gas deposits have been found in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the names of places;

(c) whether any plan is being drawn up to exploit these deposits; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the last three years ONGC and OIL have established oil and gas finds at about 47 places in the Wastern Offshore and in the State of Assam, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Rajasthan. The details of the places are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) Most of these discoveries are at different stages of delineation and development. However, most of the discoveries in Assam have been put on production either through early production system or on test production.

Statement

Hydrocarbon finds made during 1994-97 by ONGC

S. No.	Field Name	State	Type
1	2	3	4
1.	B-15	(West Coast) Offshore	Oil+Gas
2.	GS-23	(East (Coast) Offshore	Oil+Gas
3.	B-193	(West Coast) Offshore	Oil+Gas
4.	C-37	(West Coast) Offshore	Gas
5.	B-153	(West Coast) Offshore	Gas
6.	WO-16	(West Coast) Offshore	Oil+Gas
7.	WO-15	(West Coast) Offshore	Oil+Gas
8.	Patharia	Assam	Gas
9.	Perungulam	Tamil Nadu	Gas
10.	B-15A	(West Coast) Offshore	Oil+Gas
11.	C-43	(West Coast) Offshore	Gas
12.	C-39	(West Coast) Offshore	Gas
13.	Lankapalem	Andhra Pradesh	Gas
14.	Mullikipalle	Andhra Pradesh	Gas
15.	Adivipalem	Andhra Pradesh	Gas
16.	Bhubandar	Assam	Gas